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ORIGINAL

March 16, 2005

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Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

RE: Court Ruling Threatens Telecom Service to Latino Community

Dear Commissioner Adelstein:

I am writing to call your attention to a recent court ruling that directly impacts Latino consumers.

The DC Circuit Court would eliminate choice for millions of consumers around the country; nearly two million of them in California alone. This decision would send us back to a time when the only way to get local phone service was from one of two giant monopolies. Depending on where you lived, you were either beholden to Verizon Communications (formerly GTE) or SBC Communications (formerly Pacific Bell). There were no other options. No other choices.

Competition has brought much needed diversity to the market. Companies must compete to serve Latino customers by offering lower prices and top-notch customer service. A modest example: our company specializes in providing local and long-distance telephone service, as well as dial-up Internet access to Spanish-speaking households. We serve Latino consumers by offering the state's first 24-hour bilingual network, conveniently located payment centers and 1-cent-a-minute calling plans between San Diego and Tijuana.

Competition has helped bring to reality what the Latino community deserves: choices that serve it with respect.

Latino small businesses and residential consumers are some of the fastest-growing market segments in the state. Clearly, such an important constituency is best served through competition and choice.

I urge you to appeal this ill-conceived court ruling to the Supreme Court.

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Please help preserve local phone competition in California and the benefits it brings to the Latino community and our state's economy.

Sincerely,



Ruben Garcia
President & CEO
Telscape Communications, Inc.

CC:

Catholic Charities of San Jose
Centro Latino de Educacion Popular
Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute
Greenlining Institute
Inland Counties Hispanic Roundtable
La Casa de la Raza, Inc.
Latino Issues Forum
Liberia Del Pueblo, Inc.
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